Juvenile Delinquency - 1932

NEW BRITAIN, CONN.
HERALD
MAR 2 1 1932

NO NEED FOR AGITATION

Are some juvenile court cases too serious in character to permit juvenile court procedure? That is the crux of the agitation that has penetrated juvenile court circles throughout the state concering the action of Superior Court Judge Peasley in sending Wiley Elbert, Waterbury Negro, to the state reformatory for 19 years. Elbert is 16 years old, and was convicted of an attack on a white housemaid.

The furore in the state is based upon the premise that the entire juvenile court procedure will be wrecked if this decision is allowed to stand. It is not a question of how youth was punished, but of the precedent established that agitates the minds of welfare workers. The youth, it is held, should have been trid in a juvenile court; instead, possibly because of the gravity of the charge, he was taken before the Superior court, and if it can be done in one case it can be done in others.

Any juvenile court, it is held, could have sent the boy to the Meriden school for boys and having him transferred to the state reformatory at Cheshire for five years.

The gravity of the offense, however, led to the belief that the youth was entitled to more than five years. His conviction before the Superior court judge got him ten years. Many will hold that the ten years is not too heavy a punishment considering the seriousness of the offense, a crime that has resulted in lynching in many more southerly sections of the country and merits heavy imprisonment in all states.

One of the alarmed critics has given the opinion that five years would have accomplished as much as the ten year sentence anyway. That is the coddling of criminals viewpoint, which does nothing at all to eliminate crime or curtail crime. The nation is having an opportunity to note what the widespread coddling of criminals leads to. Whether the Elbert cose is a precedent or not bother the general run of citizenry who are well tired of seeing the criminal element treated as if they were merely bad children requiring nothing more serious than a few handcuffs and an exacted promise not to be bad again within the next week.

Florida.

Juvenile Delinquency - 1932

CLEARWATER, FLA.
SUN
DEC 1 - 1932

Delinquents

THE state probably cannot afford to build an institution for the care of delinquent negro girls. But neither can it afford to give them unrestricted freedom. Many of these girls suffer from infectious diseases, and thus they constitute a menace to others.

Obviously, as Juvenile Judge Harris points out, we cannot fill our county jails with girls of this class. We have a state institution for delinquent boys, white and black, and we have a state institution for delinquent white girls. But through some queer quirk in the state management scheme no provision was made for delinquent negro girls.

Surely in one or other of the state institutions temporary accommodations at least can be provided for these girls. Action should not be deferred until the legislature can take up the matter. Something should be done immediately.

CLEARWATER, FLA.
SUN
DEC 1 1932

To S. D. HARRIS
Judge of Juvenile Court

DEAR JUDGE: Your statement that Florida has made provision for the care of delinquent negro boys but none for delinquent negro girls is amazing. To imprison these girls in the county jail does nothing for their reformation. To send them to the streets or back to the homes responsible for their delinquency is completely to ignore the problem they present, since some are victims of infectious diseases and a menace to those with whom they come into contact.

Surely some one of the state institutions can make room for these girls temporarily at least. Anything would be an improvement over the present condition.

COLONEL CLEARWATER.

Juvenile Delinquency -1932

RALEIGH, N. C.
NEWS OBSERVER

JUN 21 1932

IS YOUTH GROWING WORSE?

The oft-expressed opinion is that the youth of this generation is much worse than in other years. Judges in North Carolina point out that there is an ever increasing number of boys and young men charged with stealing. There was a time when larceny cases were mostly confined to Negroes. It created a sensation when a white youth was up for stealing. Today there are, according to court officials, fewer Negro thieves and more white thieves. This is particularly true of the theft of automobiles and their parts. This seems to be due to a feeling that is too prevalent among youths, stated in the words of the song: "I want what I want when I want it." Too many are so resolved to have things they cannot buy that they violate the commandment, "Thou shalt not steal."

On the contrary, Dan Beard, chief of the Boy Scouts, is quoted as saying:

"We don't know what wild boys are in these days. Why, when I was a boy people thought something was wrong with a boy if he hadn't been drunk by the time he was 15. Youngsters drank then as they will never drink again."

Dr. Carleton Simon, former deputy police commissioner of New York, gives some figures from the record of Sing Sing. In 1878, 56.7 per cent. of the inmates of that famous prison were under 24 years of age when convicted; in 1930, only 35.6 per cent. of the convicts were under that age. That registers a decrease of a little more than one-third. In 1878, 28.7 per cent. of the inmates were 19 or younger; in 1930 the percentage was only 10 per cent., or a decline of nearly two-thirds.

The Children's Bureau of the United States Department of Labor submits figures proving a like tendency. In 1890 the percentage of offenders convicted of crime between the ages of 18 and 20 was 12.1 per cent.; in 1923 the ratio had dropped to 9.4, or a decrease of nearly a quarter.

In 1911 Frank Moss, United States District Attorney in New York City, said in a statement in the New York American:

"As a matter of cold, statistical fact, the present crime wave is a kid crime wave."

Speaking of gangsters and hold-up men, he said:

"Most of them—perhaps 75 per cent.—are under the age of 21. The boys of New York are literally and absolutely running wild."

CRIME AND RACES

It is interesting to note statistics relative to crime committed according to races in the South. This is better understood by making comparison at home. Some decades ago it was an unusual sight to see a white man on the chain gang, especially working on the road or in the ditches. This is now a common sight. Heretofore only in very unusual cases would these men be placed in prison, but now the jails are filled with hem, and even the number of white women is being increased and in proportion delinquency among their boys and girls. In a recent release of the Georgia department of public welfare, it was noted that the commitment of white persons for 1931 showed an increase of ten per cent. over that of 1930, while the colored commitment was only five per cent over the same period, thus showing that the white increase was twice as much as the colored. The number of white women also increased during the same period. Leading the increase is the number of white boys, while the white girls are nearly three times larger. It may be informing to give the figures of the white and colored girls for 1930 and 1931. In 1930, 68 white girls were committed and only 61 colored girls, 7 more white than colored girls. In 1931, 143 white girls were committed and only 129 colored girls. This year showed a large increase for both races' girls but the white girls outnumber the colored girls by 14. Our women more than double theirs and our boys are slightly more than the others. Efforts should be made to decrease our number for 1932.

these young ones is appealing to every one in better circumstances. Our organizations, especially the churches, led by the ministers, should plan to raise funds in order to pick these waifs up and give them at least a day's outing in some suitable outskirt locality where they can be care free and breathe in some pure air. Even in such an outing, our old people should not be forgotten. No better service can be given to Him we serve than to so help those around us who are not in a position to help themselves. Despite the many privileges for recreation enjoyed by the whites, yet during this season plans are made to give outings to the poorer ones among them. This is a virtue of our white citizens we can profitably imitate. As leaders of the people, is it not possible for our ministers to give effective service in this direction? Let them lead and the people will follow by contributing to such a cause.

DELINQUENCY OF NEGRO CHILDREN

The Report Of The United States Department Of Labor Shows Higher Delinquency Rate Among Colored Children Than White

WASHINGTON, Sept.5—(CNS) Colored boys and girls were involved in practically one-fifth of the cases of juvenile delinquency handled by 92 courts throughout the country during 1931, according to the report of the Children's Bureau of the United States Department of Labor made public recently. While the delinquency rate for 1931 decreased slightly during the past year from the high rate in 1930, it is considerably higher than the rates for the three year period 1927-1929.

The report covers the cases of 53,750 delinquent children reported by 92 courts throughout the United States. Of these 9,852 were colored children, 8,006 of them boys and 1,846 girls. There were few cases of children of foreign birth reported to the courts as delinquents during that year.

It is generally accepted that the reasons that bring boys into the juvenile court as delinquents differ from those which bring girls into court, and similarly, the courts points out, is there a difference between the type of charge preferred against the colored and white offender of both sex.

Larger proportions of white boys than of colored boys were referred to court for automobile stealing, burglary or unlawful entry, truancy, sex offenses, acts of carelessness or mischief, traffic violations, and a miscellaneous group of of offenses classed as "other," whereas larger proportions of colored boys than of white boys were referred for holdups, other stealing, being ungovernable, an injuries to persons. White girls were referred in larger proportions for burgarly or unlawful entry, other stealing, being ungovernable, injuries to persons, and acts of carelessness or mischief.

Of the colored boys cases 33 per cent were reported for petty stealing, 24 per cent for acts of carelessness and mschief, 10 per cent for burglary or unlawful 7 per cent as being ungovernable, 6 per cent for truancy, 5 percent for running away, 4 per cent for injury to person, 3 per cent automobile stealing, and 1 per cent each for sex offense, traffic violation, use, possession, or sale of liquor or drugs.

Colored girls were reported to the court in the following types of cases: 28 per cent as being ungovernable, 18 per cent for sex offense, 16 per cent for stealing other than automobile stealing for which offense the cases amounted to less than 1 per cent, 13 per cent for running away, 11 per cent for acts of carelessness or mischief, 6 per cent for truancy and 5 per cent for injury to person. Use, sale or possession of drugs, and burglary entry each comprised less than one per cent of the cases.

In both the boys and girls cases the percentage referred to courts for acts of carelessness or mischief decreased as the age of the children increased, except in the cases of girls 18 years of age or over, while the percentage referred for sex offenses and offenses having to do with liquor or drugs rose with variations as the age of the child increased.

Some differences in the types of dispositions reported in cases of white and of colored children are shown in the report. Cases of white boys were more frequently disposed of by dismissal or indefinite continuance than those of the colored boys, and reference or commitment to the care of an agency or individual was more frequent in the cases of colored boys No outstanding differences are apparent in the dispositions of the cases of white and colored girls.

A study of the care given the children while the case is pending shows that white boys were less frequently detained than colored boys in the cases for which information was given regarding detention care. Of those obtained, slightly larger proportions of the colored than of the white boys were cared for in detention homes, jails, or police stations. Other institutions such as receiving homes or shelters of private agencies were less frequently used for colored than for white boys.

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Juvenile Delinquency -1932

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Of these cases of children whose mother was the same for both boys and girls. In cases of children whose mother were dead, the proportion in the de-of the boys' cases and in one-third of the boys' cases so reported, one or both parents were dead. The lack of normal home life may play a more important part in the delinquency of girls than of boys, as the girls' cases the child was living with one parent and more nearly related to home conditions than the difficulties of other institutions and boarding or other family homes were used in a larger proportion of the cases of colored girls. The figures relating to home condi-

Juvenile Delinquency-1932

Parole 42 Boys At Ga. Juvenile Farm

Courier 3-12-32

(Editor's Note—The following is a speech delivered at Savannah, Ga., by A. E. Coppage, Boys' Work chairman, to 42 boys who were recently paroled from the Georgia Juvenile Farm.)

Pittsburgh Press

Fellow co-workers, boys' parents, friends, honored guest, ladies and gentlemen: I am happy to have this privilege to appear before you this morning to try to say something that may be of some service to some of you in the days, yes, years to come.

I bring you a message of cheer and encouragement, cheer to the boys who are leaving us today and encouragement to the boys who are still with us. Christ always asked His disciples never to be tired of service. Since I know the Lord, I must attempt to carry out His words, therefore I never refuse when it is my chance to do something of service to man and certainly an uplift to God's Kingdom.

I feel it a keen responsibility to bring a message to this group of healthy young boys, some who have heard me for the past year, and some who have never met me before. You who are going out in the world to face the many obstacles of life and others who have just arrived, others who will remain here under the care and training of Mrs. Zackery and Mr. Welcome, I hope that you will not let the things that have been said to you by these two great disciples of Christ be lost or go for naught.

As boys, remember that you are to lead by taking in some activity that will be a credit to you, your parents, and also your instructors. Suppose some of you have made mistakes—who haven't? But may I ask just here: Let us go straight from now on. It is not what you were, but what you are today. I trust that you who are leaving will go out and live that the world will see that you intend to do better. You have no doubt displayed these characteristics here around the fram; that is evident by your grouping here with intentions of being dismissed. I have from time to time entreated you to be loyal, which is a superior trait. The finest loyalty is that to self. To be true to yourself in the dark or behind closed doors, to be loyal to your best self whether on the farm, at home, or abroad requires much thought. I want you to go out to be helpful, trustworthy, obedient, courteous and brave. Be clean with your body and mind, be thrifty and, above all, be reverent. It would profit you much to form the habit of reading the Bible daily, with reverence to God as your Supreme Father. Some of you would like to be great men as Allen, Douglass, DePriest, Spaulding, Herndon, Lewis and many others too numerous to mention, whose motto has always been to "Seek first the Lord and all things will be added to your life."

May I close with the word dependable, "Trust"? One on whom you can rely, no matter what happens, a person in whom you can place much confidence and whatever he or she says you can surely depend on. Will you permit man to depend on you? Can your humlest servant depend on you? Will you confide in God to the extent that He can depend on you to put His program over sincerely?. I asked you these questions and I want you to consider them thoroughly, earnestly and prayerfully. God bless you all wherever you go.

"OVER 1,200 CHILDREN IN JAIL"

We had occasion to mention the number of prisoners incarcerated in Georgia and made a comparison, locally, as to races. Now comes the Morning News, under the above headline, giving thought to another phase as follows:

Atlanta Journal 3-24-32

One of the most serious problems confronting Georgia today is the startling fact that there are 1,204 children confined to the county jails of the state, an increase of this class of prisoners of 40 per cent in one year. These are white and Negro boys and girls, many of them in jail for the first time, locked up with hardened criminals.

The statistics about the Georgia prison population contain several startling facts. One is that last year nineteen out of every thousand people in the state, counting old and young, babies and all, went to jail on some charge. Not all, of course, were guilty, but that many, one out of every fifty, was committed to jail. That is a 7 per cent. increase over the previous year. Another startling thing is that while last year the increase in both white and Negro prisoners was considerable, the white increase was 10 per cent. against an increase of only 5 per cent. for the Negroes. A few years ago there were two Negroes for each white person in jail in Georgia; today the races are almost upon an equality in this respect.

The big facts revealed mean that serious thought must be paid to the matter of youthful delinquency, and some way must be found to rescue these young offenders before they become hardened, professional criminals. Children" should not be locked up with veteran gangsters. They ought to be corrected, to be sure, and disciplined and rescued and saved from a life of habitual crime.

In Georgia we are not paying enough attention to this matter. There was actually a proposal last year to abolish the department of public welfare, practically the only official agency in the state which is at work on this problem which is to so radically affect the future of Georgia.

SAVANNAH, GA.
PRESS

SEP 15 1932

Five White Boys Hurt Negro Girl

Telegraph 3-24-32

Five white boys and one Negro girl, all ranging in ages from 12 to 16 years, were summoned to recorder's court Wednesday after the boys broke the girl's teeth out in a South Macon rock battle.

The boys, going home from school, began quarreling with the girl whom they met on Third street. Police Officers John J. Beck and H. W. Humphries said. Rocks soon were flying and the girl's teeth were broken out and her face cut and bruised. She ran home and told her parents. They called police and in the ensuing round-up of boys, Horace Smith, 1543 Broadway; Luther Whaley, 146 Church street; Junior Parish, 104 Wood street; John Smith, 459 Edgewood avenue, and C. B. Willis, 104 Wood street, were given summons for disorderly conduct.

The girl, Thelma Booker, 357 Elm street, also was charged with disorderly conduct.

THE RACHEL MOORE MEMORIAL

There is to be an unusual and very interesting ceremony at the Chatham County Juvenile Farm Sunday, when a tablet is to be unveiled to the memory of Rachel Moore, a colored woman. The Chatham County Commissioners have accepted an invitation to be represented when the memory of a faithful county employe is honored. Rachel Moore was an unusually capable woman. She was for several years the matron at the Juvenile Farm and there came in contact with the boys who were sent to the farm for correction. Her influence was always for good and she was untiring in her efforts to appeal to the best that was in the negro youths who came under her direction. She had the respect and helpful co-operation of those who had the institution directly in charge. She won the approbation of County Commissioners, members of the grand jury and others who had reason to observe her work and comment upon her methods.

It is fitting that the memory of Rachel Moore should be preserved in the manner that has been selected by those of her own race for honoring her. Her service was unselfish and she secured results through intelligent direction. She gave the best she had to the performance of the tasks which daily presented themselves and it shows a fine spirit that there is to be some permanent memorial to her supplied by her own people. The Commissioners and county authorities recognize Rachel Moore as one who did her best to encourage and reward those who came under her guidance, direction and influence.

Juvenile Delinquency - 1932

TWO ASSEMBLIES TO ATTACK NEGRO JUVENILE CRIME

Chicago Defender

U. of C.-Urban League's Findings to Be Revealed.

5/22/32

The problem of juvenile delinquency in the Negro community of the near south side will be attacked at two meetings this week.

A conference will be held by the research department of the Urban league Tuesday afternoon at the Central Y. W. C. A., 59 East Monroe street, when there will be a presentation of the study made under the joint auspicies of the league committee and the social science research council of the University of Chicago.

Sixty-six churches and three other organizations are to join in the second event, a rally of the Colored Big Brothers society at 3 o'clock this afternoon in Metropolitan Community church, 41st street and South Park way. This society for five years has been a volunteer group of helpers and advisers for delinquents in court and those just released from correctional institutions.

Rodney H. Brandon, director of the state department of public welfare, will be the principal speaker.

Several Ministers on Program.

Others on the program include Robert F. Havlik, director of the school for boys at St. Charles; Oren Coleman, director of the state reformatory at Pontiac; Albert B. George of the board of paroles and pardons; Dr. Frank O Beck, director of Protestant boys work at the Boys' court, the Rev. John F. Plummer, superintendent of Episcopal City missions; the Rev. Joseph H. Brandon of Olivet Baptist church; the Rev. William P. Latham of Metropolitan church; the Rev. Wayman Ward of Bethel A. M. E. church; Joseph D. Bryan, director of Negro work in Boys' court as well as organizer and volunteer superintendent of the society. Jesse G. Sublett, president of the Big Brothers, will preside.

There also will be a musical program under the direction of Mrs. Frankie Collins, dramatic contralto. Artists on the program are to be Mrs. Minnie Foster, soprano; William Nicks, baritone; Berean Baptist choir quartet directed by Isaac Yarbrough; John Thompson and Mrs. Collins, duet; Four Apostles of Harmony, directed by C. Peavy, and Theo Taylor, accompanist.

Urban League Symposium.

The Urban league conference, participated in by 15 other agencies, will open with a luncheon symposium led by Elbridge B. Pierce, chairman of the league's board of directors.

Those participating are to include Dr. E. W. Burgess of the University of Chicago; Dr. Paul L. Schroeder, director of the Institute for Juvenile Research; Miss Isabelle Dolton, assistant superintendent of schools; Miss Irene Kawin, deputy chief probation officer of the Juvenile court; Albert B. George, Judge William C. Brooks of the Boys' court; Miss Florence Monahan of the State Training School for Girls; and Dr. A. G. Berry, superintendent of the Cook County Juvenile Detention home.

Community Backgrounds.

Earl R. Moses, director of research of the Urban league, will present "Community Backgrounds of Negro Delinquency," the first section of a broad study on juvenile delinquency among Chicago Negroes, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. Mrs. Wendell E Green, chairman of the research committee, will preside.

Participating in the ensuing discussion will be Dr. Clifford Shaw and Dr. Albert S. Beckman of the Institute for Juvenile Research; Dr. Burgess and Louis Jones, a graduate student at the University of Chicago.

Prof. Harrison A. Dobbs of the graduate school of social service administration of the university will make the report of the committee on findings and recommendations.

CALLS FOR ACTION TO REDUCE NEGRO DELINQUENCIES

Chicago Tribune

Speaker Tells League of Rising Rate.

5/25/32

A study of the increase in juvenile delinquency among Negroes in Chicago and recommendations for remedying conditions were presented by a member of that race yesterday before a conference of the Chicago Urban league at the Central Y. W. C. A. The speaker was Earl R. Moses, a graduate of Oberlin college and director of research for the league, whose findings are the result of a two and a half year's survey.

"We find that crime and delinquency in our race is not a result of inherent traits," said Mr. Moses, "but rather that these social ills may be blamed on the conditions under which the people live."

In 1900, when the Negroes constituted 1.8 per cent of the total population, Negroes made up 3.5 per cent of the total delinquents, according to Mr. Moses. However, in 1930, with Negroes numbering 6.9 of the total population, the delinquents of this race had increased to 21.2 per cent, showing that the ratio is mounting. Females outnumber the male offenders, Mr. Moses said.

Judge Gives Court Figures.

Earlier in the conference, Judge J. William Brooks of the Boys' court had revealed that in the last ten months Negro youths have made up 21.6 per cent of the offenders in his court.

Negro delinquency decreases as the Negro communities move outward from the loop, according to the report. "The higher rates of delinquency prevail in areas of disorganization, and the lower rates of delinquency are in organized Negro communities," said Mr. Moses. Of the total Negro male delinquents in 1929, 77.2 per cent were born in the south. More than one-fourth came from Mississippi.

Improvements Are Asked.

Recommendations for improvement included: Better housing facilities, razing of deteriorated buildings, more adequate recreatfonal centers, and additional private and public provisions for fostering placements for dependent children, pre-delinquents and delinquents, who are or who may be wards of the Juvenile court and of the St. Charles school for boys.

Juvenile Delinquency - 1932

JUVENILE JOB GOES TO WOMAN

Courier
3-26-32
Pittsburgh Pa

OMAHA, Mar. 24.—A colored woman, graduate of Wilberforce University, Miss Gertrude Lucas, has been appointed by Judge Herbert Rhoades, juvenile worker in the court over which he presides in Omaha. This is the first such appointment made in Omaha and it has brought Judge Rhoades a letter of thanks and appreciation from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Miss Lucas has for eleven years been a social worker on the Omaha welfare board. She is on the executive committee of the local N. A. A. C. P., and is chairman of its membership committee. The Omaha Guide, edited by C. C. Galloway, has been fighting for five years to have a colored worker appointed to the Juvenile Court.

Juvenile Delinquency – 1932

NEW YORK SUN

MAY 31 1932

The Child Who Kills.

A child over 7 and under 16 years of age is capable of only one crime in New York State. All his other offenses are classed as juvenile delinquencies for which he may be committed to an appropriate institution. A child between the age of 12 and 16 can be convicted of murder and executed. A child between 7 and 12 might be convicted on proof that he had "sufficient capacity to understand."

A Negro boy 15 years old was convicted of murder in the first degree and sentenced to die. The indictment charged that the killing took place while the accused was engaged in the commission of a separate felony, robbery. As his age created the legal presumption that he could not commit robbery, the Court of Appeals reversed the conviction and ordered a new trial.

In the opinion written by Judge Lehman the court declared that the trial was conducted with eminent fairness and the verdict of the jury was not against the weight of evidence. If the boy had been tried for murder as a deliberate and premeditated design he might have been convicted; the inclusion of the accusation of another felony brought about the direction for a new trial. Judge LEHMAN wrote:

> "Upon the new trial this defendant may be tried for murder in the first or second degrees committed through the killing of a human being with intent to effect his death. Such an action may be impelled by 'evil mind' and felonious intent as evidenced by the criminal acts of the child, but not by acts which the Legislature has declared are not criminal when committed by a child.
>
> "A person who with evil mind commits a crime may in the interests of society be punished even by death for the undesigned and unforeseen results of the crime. No person, certainly no child under the age of sixteen, is subject to death or life imprisonment because of the calamitous though undesigned result of acts which are not criminal in their inception."

The boy, LOUIS ROPER, was one of two who held up a Negro restaurant in Seventh avenue and killed one of the customers. His accomplice was never caught.

Juvenile Delinquency – 1932

CONCORD, N. C.
TRIBUNE

MAY 28 1932

SPECS AND CHAINS.

George Beasley, Jr., in Monroe Journal.

There are some bright little negro waifs around town that probably spend most of their waking hours in mischief. One of them passed us on Main Street the other afternoon. He wore a man's coat that struck him around the ankles. His black skin peered through a lighter veneer of dirt.

Without the warning finger of conscience or the guiding hand of average training, the bright little embryonic criminal went about begging nickles and dimes and cigarette stubs. He was having great fun wearing a pair of glasses.

A negro was brought in Recorder's court last week. His place of residence was indicated by the harsh music of chains rattling on his legs. He was serving a road sentence and was a State's witness in the trial of another darkey.

Of course there is no connection between the negro man with chains on and the negro boy wearing specs, except the old admonition about an ounce of prevention.

GREENSBORO, N. C.
RECORD

MAY 30 1932

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